

Pages 6 and 7, replace the paragraph starting on page 6 at line 18 and ending on page 7 at line 15 with the following new paragraph:

-- Referring to the drawings in particular, Figures 1, 2 and 3 show different views of the slot cover according to the present invention. Figure 1 shows a bottom view of the slot cover.

B3 The slot cover comprises a support structure 5, which comprises a central plate 5.3 arranged in the middle of the support structure 5 and two supports 5.1 and 5.2 arranged to the side of the support structure 5. A generous opening 5.4 is provided in the central plate 5.3. Two deflecting elements are arranged at the outer ends of the support structure 5 and are formed by two broad deflecting rollers 3.1 and 3.2, at the ends of which two gears 3.3 and 3.4 as well as 3.5 and 3.6 are arranged. The broad deflecting rollers 3.1 and 3.2 are mounted rotatably at the ends of the respective lateral supports 5.1 and 5.2. Furthermore, four narrow deflecting rollers 4.1 through 4.4, which form a rectangle with one another with two deflection axes, are located in the central area of the supports 5.1 and 5.2. The narrow deflecting rollers 4.1 through 4.4 are also mounted rotatably in the lateral supports 5.1 and 5.2. The louver 2, which forms an endless band, is guided around the deflecting rollers, and part of this endless band consists of a broad band 2.1 and the other part of two narrow bands 2.2 and 2.3, respectively, which pass over with their ends into the ends of the broad band. An opening is provided for the selector lever in the area of the broad band 2.1, and the two narrow bands 2.2 and 2.3 themselves form an opening through which a selector lever can be passed. The louver 2 can include an elastic portion 12, having elastic properties, at least in the circumferential direction of the closed loop, the elastic louver portion being provided over at least a part of a length of the louver.--

Pages 7 and 8, replace the paragraphs starting on page 7 at line 16 and ending on page 8 at line 9 with the following new paragraph:

B4  
-- The guiding of the band can be recognized especially clearly from Figure 2, which shows a side view of the slot cover. The band is guided such that the louver 2 surrounds the two broad deflecting rollers 3.1 and 3.2 on the end side and rolls on the gears 3.3 through 3.6 arranged on the broad deflecting rollers. The narrow deflecting rollers 4.1 through 4.4 are arranged outside the circumference of the band, and the small deflecting rollers 4.1 through 4.4 are pressed into the loop of the louver 2 and thus ensure a corresponding tension of the louver. On their edges, the deflecting rollers 4.1 through 4.4 have beads 9, which prevent the narrow bands 2.2 and 2.3 from breaking out. The division of the louver 2 in the area of the broad band 2.1 and in the area of the narrow bands 2.2 and 2.3 is designed such that the narrow deflecting rollers 4.1 through 4.4 come into contact only with the narrow bands 2.2 and 2.3 during a movement of the selector lever.

An additional guiding of the louver 2 is achieved by means of the lateral supports 5.1 and 5.2, which are curved on their top side and form a curvature, over which the louver 2 can slide. In addition, part of the central plate 5.3 is adapted to the curvature of the lateral supports 5.1 and 5.2, so that an improvement of the guiding of the louver is also achieved. Further guiding being provided by slide rails 11 which are laterally engaged by the louver 2. An especially reliable guiding is guaranteed by this embodiment--.

Pages 9 and 10, replace the paragraph starting on page 9 at line 17 and ending on page

10 at line 5 with the following new paragraph:

B5 -- Figure 7 shows a bottom view of a cover plate 6, under which the slot cover 1 according to the present invention is arranged. The selector lever 8 - fixed in a sideways pivoted position - is indicated by broken line here as well, in which case the slot cover 1 has also been displaced in relation to the cover plate 6. The displaceability of the slot cover 1 in relation to the cover plate 6 may be achieved, e.g., by the support structure 5 itself being fastened on the shifting device or on the slot cover 1 with a bracket 15, which allows a lateral movement of the slot cover. It would be possible, e.g., to clip the slot cover 1 with the axes of the broad deflecting rollers 3.1 and 3.2 in a clamp on the narrow sides, where the clamps are substantially narrower in their broad extension than the length of the broad deflecting rollers, so that the entire slot cover 1 can be moved on it from right to left--.

Page 10, between lines 12 and 13 insert the following new paragraph:

B6 -- Moreover, a selector lever shift position detector may be additionally integrated in a slot cover according to the present invention in a simple manner. For example, signal transmitters 13, whose signals are detected by signal receivers 14 arranged at spaced locations, may be arranged at the deflecting elements, preferably deflector roller 3.1. The principal, which functions similarly to the tachometer, may be embodied, e.g., by means of Hall sensors 14 and permanent magnets 13, wherein a pair of measured values is assigned to each shift position--.